

REMARKS

The Official Action dated April 3, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in response thereto. Claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 11-14 are currently active in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 9 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Non-Patent Literature "Personal Security Agent: KQML-Based PKI" by Qi He, Katia P. Sycara and Timothy W. Finin (He et al.). Claims 3-6 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over He et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10, and further in view of Non-Patent Literature "Security mechanisms for the MAP agent system" by Antonio Puliafito and Orzaio Tomarchio (Puliafito et al.).

The present application was filed on November 20, 2000 with informal drawings. The present Official Action requests the submission of new formal drawings. Included with this response are two copies of new formal drawings.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statements that Applicant's arguments filed on January 10, 2006 were a repeat of the exact arguments that were presented in response to the non-final rejection rendered on September 29, 2004, and that the deletion of claim language from claims 1 and 9 in that prior response has broadened the claim language. In Applicant's response filed on January 10, 2006, claim 1, which prior to amendment recited "the set of interdependent security agents including a configuration agent and at least one of a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent" was amended to recite "the set of interdependent security agents including a configuration agent, a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent." This amendment clearly narrowed the scope of claim 1, reciting all four security agents, i.e., a configuration agent, a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent,

as elements of the invention. Prior to this amendment, claim 1 recited a configuration agent and at least one of a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent. This amendment to claim 1, and a similar amendment to claim 9, were discussed in the arguments included in Applicant's response filed on January 10, 2006. These arguments were not a repeat of the exact arguments that were presented in response to the non-final rejection rendered on September 29, 2004.

The foregoing amendment presents changes to claims 1 and 9 to more clearly define Applicant's recited invention and distinguish the claimed invention from the cited prior art. Referring to the claim amendments presented above, independent method claim 1 has been amended to include specific descriptions of the configuration agent, distribution agent, secure copy agent, and patrol agent, and their use and operation within the recited method. Similarly, independent system claims 9 has been amended to include specific descriptions of the configuration agent, distribution agent, secure copy agent, and patrol agent, and their use and operation within the recited system. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 9 is provided in the specification, page 5, line 22 through page 6, line 26.

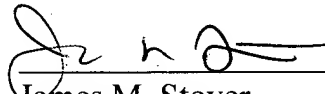
The rejection of claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter is believed to be overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 9.

The rejection of claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by He et al., and the rejection of claims 3-6 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over He et al. and Puliafito et al. are believed to be overcome by the amendments to independent claims 1 and 9 presented above. The inventions recited in claims 1 and 9, as amended, recite the utilization of a set of specifically defined security agents, this set of security agents including a

configuration agent, a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent. This use of a configuration agent, a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent is not taught or suggested in the cited references. Neither He et al. and Puliafito, taken singularly or in combination disclose a set of interdependent security agents as specifically recited in independent claims 1 and 9, as amended, of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application including claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 11-14, is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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